

# **Maine Youth Migration Profiles 1995-2000**

**Prepared for REALIZE!Maine**

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## Introduction and Summary

This paper explores the characteristics of young people aged 20-34 who moved from Maine, to Maine, and within Maine over the period 1995-2000. The paper uses data from the 2000 census to provide a more detailed picture of the age, employment, income, locational and educational characteristics of young people who moved during this period.

The data shows that Maine has clearly had a youth out-migration problem, particularly in the years most closely associated with going to college. Young people who left Maine were more likely to have higher education and higher incomes, although the differences were generally not as large as might be expected. Out-migrants were also more likely to be those looking for work in certain fields such as professional and technical fields. Out-migrants were most likely to go to states in New England and the Southeastern regions, and were more likely to come from southern Maine than northern Maine.

At the same time, Maine did attract a substantial number of young people from outside the state to come to Maine. While there were about 6,000 more out-migrants to Maine than in-migrants among the 20-34 age group, the net out-migration is accounted for almost entirely by those between 20 and 24. In the rest of the age group, in-migrants outnumbered out-migrants. In-migrants are also more likely to come here from other New England States. More young people also moved to Maine from the Mid-Atlantic, Mid-West and the Intermountain West regions than moved from Maine to these areas. In-migrants were more likely to go to southern Maine than northern Maine.

There was also movement by young people within Maine. In fact, young people, like people everywhere, are more likely to move locally than to move a significant distance; about two-thirds of Maine residents in 2000 who had moved since 1995 moved within the same region. For those who did move outside their region, the urban areas of Portland and Bangor were the most popular destinations, while the rural areas of eastern, northern, and western Maine saw the largest net out-migration.

The implications of these findings should help shape the debate about youth migration in Maine. Among these implications are:

- The biggest force pulling young people outside of Maine appears to be the opportunity to go to college.
- A greater availability of certain types of work in professional and technical fields also appears to draw young people outside of Maine.
- The exodus from rural Maine is real, but many young people clearly choose to stay in Maine by moving to more urban areas.

- Maine remains an attractive place for young people to move to. The imbalance in favor of young people leaving the state is most affected by education choices.
- Young people who move to Maine are more likely to have been born in another state than Maine. Making Maine attractive to all young people is thus likely to be more important than focusing only on encouraging those from Maine to return.

In presenting our findings, we try to specifically answer the most commonly asked questions about youth migration in Maine, so the analysis is organized around key questions concerning youth migration.

## **A Word about the Data**

The US Census Bureau collects detailed social, economic and housing statistics on the nation's population every ten years. All households and individuals are counted, and data collected on the age, sex, race, etc. of the total population. In addition, approximately 5% of the households in the nation fill out the "long form" questionnaire. Along with the demographic, social and economic data, information on population movement and migration is collected in some depth. This data, the Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), is made available for public use and analysis.

The long form Census questionnaire asks the respondent to indicate where they lived in 1995. Migration is inferred based on the answer to this question and on subsequent questions about the location of their 1995 residence if it was not the same as in 2000.

The data presented in this profile of young adults aged 20-34 is derived from the public use sample for Maine and all other states. The Maine population was sorted into two categories: (1) those that had lived in Maine since 1995, (2) those who had moved to Maine sometime between 1995 and April 1, 2000 when the census was taken. The PUMS 1% sample data for all other 49 states was searched to extract the records of those who had lived in Maine in 1995. This searched yielded 1024 records, of which 312 were of respondents between 20 and 34 in 2000. Comparisons were then made of place of birth, educational, economic (occupational and income), and household characteristics to ascertain variations among the three groups. For the group that was living in Maine in 1995, their movement within the state was also measured.

Because the PUMS data is a sample of the population, a process known as weighting is used to allow estimates of the total population size having a given characteristic. These weights are statistically estimated for each state's population based on certain characteristics. Because the residence in 1995 is not one of these characteristics, the Maine records in other states' PUMS files cannot be used to represent the total population of Maine out-migrants and thus actual numbers of out-migrants are

generally not presented in this paper except in the case of the age distribution of out-migrants.

For analysis of migration trends within Maine, PUMS data divides the State into ten regions (called PUMAs (public use microdata areas)). These regions are established based on population size. They are determined by first dividing into metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. In Maine, only the Portland MSA is large enough to be tabulated separately, and it is further separated between the urban core (Portland, South Portland and Westbrook) the suburban communities. The balance of the state is divided into regions of at least 100,000 population. Though an attempt is made to follow county lines, only Androscoggin and Kennebec counties are PUMA regions. The balance of Maine is grouped into multi-county groups.

In this paper, the “young adult” or “youth” population is defined as those between the ages of 20 and 34.

## The Youth Who Left and Came to Maine

### *Are Young Adults More Mobile?*

**Yes**

Young adults are twice as likely to move as are those 35 and over. Between 1995 and 2000, 40%<sup>1</sup> of all individuals in Maine moved. Most move locally within Maine. Of those between the ages of 20 and 34, 70% moved during the same 5-year period. (See Table 1.) Youth are thus almost twice as likely to move as the population as a whole.

	All Persons age 5+		Young Adults age 20-34	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Same House	723,391	60.0%	68,007	30.6%
Move within Maine	360,451	29.9%	114,405	51.5%
Moved to Maine	121,702	10.1%	39,909	18.0%
Total	1,205,544	100.0%	222,321	100%

**Table 1 Residence in 1995 for Maine Residents in 2000**

### *Are Out-migrants Disproportionately Young?*

**Yes.**

Table 2 provides an age profile for those who left Maine from 1995 to 2000, who came to Maine over the same period and of the residents of Maine in 2000.

	Out-migrant Age in 1995	In-migrant Age in 1995	Out-migrant Age in 2000	In-migrant Age in 2000	Maine Residents
Under 18	32.3%	29.8%	15.7%	20.2%	23.8%
18-19	6.3%	3.8%	4.7%	3.7%	2.6%
20-24	10.5%	10.8%	18.3%	9.8%	5.1%
25-29	12.3%	10.2%	10.5%	10.8%	5.2%
30-34	7.7%	10.0%	12.3%	10.2%	6.4%
35-39	7.5%	8.2%	7.7%	10.0%	8.1%
40-49	11.1%	12.3%	13.2%	15.1%	17.2%
50-64	8.2%	9.1%	10.6%	12.3%	17.7%
Over 65	4.1%	5.9%	7.0%	8.0%	14.0%

**Table 2 Age Profile of Out-Migrants, In-migrants, and Residents**

<sup>1</sup> 5 years of age or over

The average age of out-migrants in 2000 was 33.2 years, while the average age of in-migrants to Maine was 34.7. The average age of Maine residents was 38.6, indicating that both in-migrants and out-migrants tended to be younger than the population of Maine. Since the migration to or from Maine took place at some point between 1995 and 2000, the actual age of migration was not the same as in 2000, although it cannot be pinpointed exactly since the Census does not ask in what year a change of residence took place.<sup>2</sup> Based on their computed age in 1995 (age in 2000 minus 5), the average age of all out-migrant respondents in 1995 was 28.2 and of in-migrant respondents was 29.7.

As Table 2 shows, the young average age is driven a larger proportion of those between 20 and 34. Half of adults (over 18) who left Maine were between 20 and 34 and nearly 40% of those adults who came to Maine were in this age group.

The largest group among out-migrants was those between 20 and 24, which is consistent with other data showing Maine's significant out-migration for college age students. Based on their age in 2000, the proportion of out-migrants in this age group was twice the proportion of in-migrants.

Table 3 shows the breakdown of migrants by gender. Overall, the number of men and women who left Maine and were between 20 and 34 years old in 2000 was about equal, with 211 men and 209 women. Among this age group, men and women were about equal in the age 20-24 group, men outnumbered women slightly in the 20-24 age group. Slightly more men than women left in the 25-29 age group and the reverse in age 30-34. It is also noteworthy that significantly more women than men left in the 18-19 category; this is consistent with the large differential of women going to higher education compared with men.

	Men	Women
Under 18	51.3%	48.8%
18-19	35.4%	64.6%
20-24	49.2%	50.8%
25-29	56.1%	43.9%
30-34	46.8%	53.2%
35-39	44.3%	55.7%
40-49	48.1%	51.9%
50-64	50.0%	50.0%
Over 65	50.7%	49.3%

**Table 3 Gender Distribution of Out-migrants by Age**

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<sup>2</sup> It is possible that multiple changes of residence took place between 1995 and 2000, but this is not measured in the Census data.



### ***Do Young People Move to Maine?***

**Yes**

While the focus is on youth out-migration, it is important to complete the picture by also looking at youth in-migration. The in-migrant population differs from the out-migrant population in several ways. (See Table 2) There are more in-migrants under 18 and over 40. Among the 18-34 age group, there are more out-migrants between 18-24 as expected, and somewhat more in the 30-34 category, but the proportion of in-migrants to out-migrants in the age group between 25 and 29 is about equal based on their age in 2000. Based on their age in 1995, however, there were more out-migrants than in-migrants.

### ***Did more young people leave Maine than move to Maine?***

**Yes, although the difference is primarily among those aged 20-24.**

Table 4 shows estimates of the number of out-migrants and in-migrants based on the Census profiles. These are only estimates because a sample is used to generate them.<sup>3</sup> Over 1995-2000, in-migrants outnumbered out-migrants by an estimated 14,983. Of those between 20 and 34, out-migrants exceeded in-migrants by 6,444. The majority of this difference was in those aged 20-24 (in 2000). Of those between 25 and 34, there was positive *in*-migration of 1,216.

	Out-migrants	In-migrants	Net
Under 18	16,723	24,559	7,837
18-19	5,016	4,454	-561
20-24	19,551	11,890	-7,661
25-29	11,184	13,119	1,935
30-34	13,169	12,450	-719
35-39	8,260	12,134	3,874
40-49	14,108	18,414	4,305
50-64	11,291	14,908	3,618
Over 65	7,417	9,773	2,356
20-34	43,904	37,460	-6,444
TOTAL	106,719	121,702	14,983

**Table 4 Estimated Number of Young In-migrants and Out-migrants 1995-2000<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>3</sup> Out-migrants were estimated by multiplying the proportions in table 2 times an estimate of 106,000 migrants, which is based on a 1% sample. In-migrants were estimated using the weighting assigned to individual respondents in the Maine PUMS file.

<sup>4</sup> Data in this table includes only to state-to state migration. There are also people moving between Maine and places outside the US. About 2500 came to Maine from outside the U.S. during 1995-2000.

***Where do Young Out-migrants Go and In-migrants Come From?***

**Eastern states account for nearly three quarters of youth out-migrants.**

Table 5 shows the regions to which out-migrants who were between 20 and 34 in 2000 went. As might be expected, most went to eastern states, with New England accounting for nearly half, the southeastern states the next most, followed by the Mid Atlantic. Over 72% of Maine out-migrants went to these regions. Seventy percent of In-migrants came from these same regions.

	FROM MAINE TO REGION	FROM REGION TO MAINE	NET
New England	42.7%	36.3%	OUT
Mid Atlantic	12.9%	15.9%	IN
Southeast	17.2%	16.8%	OUT
Midwest	6.9%	7.9%	IN
Mid south	5.8%	5.9%	EVEN
Plains	1.1%	1.5%	EVEN
Intermountain West	4.3%	6.6%	IN
Pacific	9.2%	9.0%	EVEN

**Table 5 Region of In-migration and Out-migration**

More young people go to other New England states than come from those states. This is also true of the southeast states. More young people come from the Mid-Atlantic states, the Midwest, and the Intermountain West. There is an approximate balance of in and out-migrant from the other regions.

Region	State	FROM MAINE TO REGION	FROM REGION TO MAINE	Region	State	FROM MAINE TO REGION	FROM REGION TO MAINE
New England	CT	3.2%	5.7%	Mid South	AR	0.2%	0.1%
	MA	21.2%	15.9%		KY	1.7%	0.7%
	NH	11.8%	9.7%		LA	0.2%	0.3%
	RI	3.4%	1.8%		MO	0.4%	0.6%
	VT	3.0%	3.3%		TN	0.6%	1.3%
					TX	2.6%	2.9%
Mid Atlantic	DC	0.4%	0.1%	Plains	IO	0.4%	0.6%
	DE	0.2%	0.3%		KS	0.2%	0.4%
	MD	2.1%	1.3%		ND	0.0%	0.2%
	NJ	1.1%	3.5%		OK	0.4%	0.2%
	NY	6.9%	6.4%		SD	0.0%	0.1%
	PA	2.1%	3.7%				
	WV	0.0%	0.5%				
Southeast	AL	0.2%	0.4%	Intermountain West	AZ	1.7%	1.5%
	FL	6.2%	5.9%		CO	1.7%	2.3%
	GA	2.1%	1.7%		ID	0.0%	0.3%
	MS	0.2%	0.4%		MT	0.0%	0.2%
	NC	3.4%	2.8%		NM	0.0%	0.6%
	SC	1.1%	1.1%		NV	0.4%	0.3%
	VA	3.9%	4.4%		UT	0.4%	0.9%
Midwest	IL	0.9%	2.2%	Pacific	WY	0.0%	0.5%
	IN	1.1%	1.1%		AK	0.9%	0.5%
	MI	1.3%	1.9%		CA	6.4%	5.7%
	MN	0.0%	0.7%		HI	0.9%	0.9%
	OH	1.3%	1.5%		OR	0.9%	0.7%
	WI	2.4%	0.5%		WA	0.2%	1.2%

**Table 6 States of Origin and Destination for Young Migrants**

More detail on destinations and origins is provided in Table 6, which shows the distribution of PUMS respondents by state, along with the region to which each state is assigned.

Massachusetts and New Hampshire are the first and second ranked destination for out-migrants; together they account for a quarter of youth out-migrants. Maine is a net exporter of young people to these two states, plus Rhode Island, but a net importer of young people from Connecticut and Vermont. Outside of New England, Florida, California, and New York each account for about 6% of out-migrants.

*Is there a “brain drain”?*

**Both out-migrants and in-migrants are more likely to be college educated, but the proportion of college-educated out-migrants is larger than in-migrants or Maine residents.**

Table 7 shows the highest educational attainment level for young out-migrants, in-migrants and those of the same age in Maine in 2000. Both out-migrants and in-migrants are somewhat better educated than the comparable young adults in Maine. Out-migrants appear to be significantly more likely to be college educated at the bachelors or graduate level, and the proportion of in-migrants does not appear to offset the loss of these college-educated people. Out-migrants are also the most likely to have had some college education. In-migrants are more closely representative of the Maine’s young adult population in the proportion of people with high school, some college, and associate degrees.

	Out-migrants	In-migrants	Maine Residents
No School	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%
Less than High School	6.0%	9.4%	9.9%
High School	22.7%	34.3%	38.3%
Some College	34.4%	27.8%	26.6%
Associates	6.0%	8.5%	8.6%
Bachelors	24.8%	16.4%	13.6%
Graduate	6.2%	3.5%	2.8%

**Table 7 Education Level of Maine Out-migrants In-migrants and Residents aged 20-34**

Educational differences become clearer when the age cohort is divided into those under age 25 and those over 25. Among individuals under 25, almost two thirds of those migrating to Maine between 1995 and 2000 were either attending college or had education beyond a high school diploma. Among older in-migrants (age 25-34) over 70% had education beyond high school.

Of those that were already living in Maine, there was no real difference in educational attainment between younger (under 25) and older (25-34) individuals. More of the older population had advanced degrees, as would be expected since many under 25 had not had time to complete advanced educational programs.

The portion of older (25-34) adults with some college or an associate degree is roughly comparable between individuals moving to Maine and those that had been here since 1995. However, the gap widens with higher levels of educational attainment. Twenty seven percent of those moving to Maine were college graduates, compared to only 16% of those that had not moved in the last 5 years. Almost 10% had a masters’ degree, compared to less than 2% of those that had not moved. Almost 5% had a professional degree or PhD, compared to less than 1% of the population that had not moved.

Attainment Level:		In Maine in 1995	Moved in since 1995	In Maine in 1995	Moved in since 1995
		Number	Number	Percent	Percent
20-24	<11th grade	2736	506	4.8	3.8
	11-12/no diploma	3849	487	6.7	3.6
	HS graduate	21666	3646	37.7	27.1
	Some Col./no deg.	21511	6249	37.4	46.5
	Assoc. degree	3125	642	5.4	4.8
	BA/BS degree	4399	1791	7.6	13.3
	MA/MS degree	169	112	0.3	0.8
	Professional deg.	52	0	0.1	0.0
	PhD	15	0	0.0	0.0
		57522	13433	100.0	100.0
25-34	<11th grade	5451	683	4.4	2.6
	11-12/no diploma	6598	963	5.3	3.6
	HS graduate	49033	5898	39.3	22.3
	Some Col./no deg.	27000	6118	21.6	23.1
	Assoc. degree	13614	1912	10.9	7.2
	BA/BS degree	20106	7135	16.1	26.9
	MA/MS degree	2058	2477	1.6	9.4
	Professional deg.	915	1040	0.7	3.9
	PhD	115	250	0.1	0.9
		124890	26476	100.0	100.0

**Table 8 Educational Attainment of Persons age 20-34 by Age and Migration Status**

College enrollment is higher among in-migrants, largely because a substantial number of younger (under age 25) migrants came here to attend college. Almost half (47%) of young adults under age 25 that moved to Maine between 1995 and 2000 are attending college or are enrolled in a graduate or professional program. By comparison, only 30% of the young adults in Maine since 1995 were enrolled in a program of higher education in 2000. Only a small portion of older youth is enrolled in college. Eleven percent of older (25-34) in migrants are attending college.

### ***Are Incomes a Factor in Migration?***

**In general, yes.**

The mean wage and salary income for youth out-migrants in 1999 (the year asked about in the Census) was \$17,832 compared with \$16,469 for Maine youth residents. Young in-migrants to Maine averaged \$17,602. These averages suggest out-migrants from Maine earned more than those who moved to Maine or were residents of Maine in 2000, but the differences are not large.

This finding is consistent with the somewhat higher educational attainment level of out-migrants. Table 8 breaks this down by education level. Those with Associates and

Bachelor's degrees earned higher wages and salaries than in-migrants or residents. However, among those with graduate degrees, in-migrants earned the highest wages. For those with less than a college education, Maine residents appear to earn higher wages on averages.

	Out-migrants	In-migrants	Maine Residents
No School		\$3,333	\$8,062
Less than High School	\$11,873	\$10,289	\$10,579
High School	\$14,013	\$14,468	\$14,489
Some College	\$11,040	\$12,161	\$14,369
Associates	\$24,175	\$20,242	\$20,244
Bachelors	\$27,273	\$23,768	\$24,901
Graduate	\$31,365	\$36,666	\$32,670
All Respondents	\$17,832	\$17,602	\$16,469

**Table 9 Average Wage and Salary Earning of Out-migrants In-migrants and Maine Residents by Education**

Again, age differences are significant. The earnings gap widens when age is considered. Within Maine, in-migrants age 25-34 have higher income than their counterparts living here already, while there is little difference in the income of those under age 25.

	Residents	In-migrants	Residents	In-migrants
Age Cohort:	20-24	20-24	25-34	25-34
Under \$20000	79.9	81.0	43.2	37.1
\$20000 -29999	14.9	13.2	28.9	27.0
\$30000 -49999	4.6	4.8	22.9	26.3
\$50000 -74999	0.5	1.0	3.7	6.6
\$75000 or more	0.2	0.0	1.2	3.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Table 10 Wage and Salary Income of Individuals Living in Maine age 20-34 compared to Individuals moving to Maine between 1995 and 2000**

*Are there particular kinds of jobs that attract migrants?*

**Both out-migrants and in-migrants are more likely to be technical and scientific professions and related industries.**

There are two ways to look at the employment characteristics of the population: the industry in which they are employed and the type of work that they do (their occupation). Table 11 shows the distribution of industries employing Maine 20-34 out-migrants and the distribution among the same population of Maine residents. Table 12 provides a clearer picture of which industries are more likely to be chosen by in-migrants

and out-migrants compared with Maine residents. It shows the ratio of the percentage of Census respondents in each industry for out-migrants and in-migrants to the percentage of Maine residents in that industry. A ratio greater than 1 indicates that industry is more likely to employ in-migrants or out-migrants; a ratio less than 1 indicates an industry is more likely to employ Maine residents.

The differences in industry of employment between residents, in-migrants, and out-migrants are actually not large, but there are some distinct patterns. Out-migrants are more likely to be employed in arts, entertainment, and recreation; education; public administration; and professional-scientific-technical services. The latter industry is more than twice as likely to employ Maine out-migrants as Maine residents. The industries in Maine that appear to attract in-migrants include education<sup>5</sup> and public administration; both these industries employ a higher proportion of in-migrants than Maine residents.

	Out-migrants	In-migrants	Maine Residents
Missing	4.9%	13.5%	5.3%
Accommodation and Food Services	12.4%	9.7%	10.3%
Admin Support/Waste Management	3.0%	3.2%	4.0%
Ag, For, Fishing and Hunting	0.3%	1.7%	4.9%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	3.5%	2.2%	1.5%
Construction	3.3%	5.3%	9.2%
Education	13.1%	10.9%	8.7%
Finance and Insurance	4.6%	4.4%	5.6%
Health Care	12.1%	11.6%	14.8%
Information	2.8%	2.9%	3.0%
Management of Enterprises	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Manufacturing	1.8%	1.9%	4.1%
Mining	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%
Not Specified	0.8%	0.2%	0.3%
Other Services	3.5%	4.8%	5.1%
Professional, Scientific and Tech Services	10.1%	5.1%	3.9%
Public Administration	13.6%	7.9%	4.8%
Real Estate	1.3%	1.4%	1.3%
Retail Trade	8.6%	7.7%	11.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	3.3%	2.3%	2.7%
Utilities	0.5%	0.2%	0.6%
Wholesale Trade	1.3%	3.1%	3.8%

**Table 11 Industry of Employment For Youth Out-migrants In-migrants and Maine Residents**

<sup>5</sup> This industry does not include the public K-12 school system since this industry is included as part of government.

	Out-migrants	In-migrants
Accommodation and Food Services	1.2	0.9
Admin Support/Waste Management	0.8	0.8
Ag, For, Fishing and Hunting	0.1	0.3
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	2.4	1.5
Construction	0.4	0.6
Education	1.5	1.2
Finance and Insurance	0.8	0.8
Health Care	0.8	0.8
Information	0.9	0.9
Management of Enterprises	-	-
Manufacturing	0.4	0.5
Mining	3.6	0.9
Not Specified		
Other Services	0.7	0.9
Professional, Scientific and Tech Services	2.6	1.3
Public Administration	2.9	1.6
Real Estate	1.0	1.1
Retail Trade	0.8	0.7
Transportation and Warehousing	1.2	0.8
Utilities	0.9	0.4
Wholesale Trade	0.3	0.8

**Table 12 Industry Specialization of Out-migrants and In-migrants**

Tables 13 and 14 show similar information for the populations arrayed by occupation type. Both in-migrants and out-migrants tend to be concentrated in the same occupation types relative to Maine residents. These include professional and technical occupations, including architects and engineers, scientists, education-related, and computer professions. In-migrants are also more likely to be in healthcare professional and technical occupations. Maine residents are more likely to be farming fishing and forestry occupations, construction, manufacturing (production), and transportation occupations.



	Out-migrants	In-migrants	Maine Residents
Missing	2.8%	3.2%	4.9%
Architecture & Engineering	3.6%	1.7%	1.2%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Sports	3.2%	3.0%	1.4%
Buildings & Grounds Maintenance	0.6%	2.4%	2.9%
Business & Financial Operations	4.5%	3.2%	2.3%
Community & Social Services	1.9%	2.4%	1.4%
Computer & Mathematical	3.2%	2.5%	1.3%
Construction	3.4%	4.6%	6.8%
Education, Training & Library	6.6%	6.6%	4.7%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	0.2%	1.4%	3.0%
Food Preparation	8.8%	8.2%	6.9%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	4.1%	5.6%	3.6%
Healthcare Support	2.1%	2.7%	3.1%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	4.1%	4.4%	3.8%
Legal	0.6%	0.9%	0.5%
Life, Physical & Social Science	2.8%	2.0%	0.7%
Management	5.3%	6.3%	4.4%
Military	1.9%	1.2%	0.4%
Office & Administrative Support	15.0%	13.9%	14.4%
Personal Service	3.6%	3.3%	3.9%
Production	4.3%	5.9%	9.2%
Protective Service	2.4%	1.9%	1.4%
Sales	10.3%	11.0%	10.9%
Transportation	4.7%	4.7%	6.8%

**Table 13 Occupation Types of Out-migrants In-migrants and Maine Residents**

	Out-migrants	In-migrants
Architecture & Engineering	3.1	1.5
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Sports	2.2	2.1
Buildings & Grounds Maintenance	0.2	0.8
Business & Financial Operations	1.9	1.4
Community & Social Services	1.4	1.7
Computer & Mathematical	2.5	1.9
Construction	0.5	0.7
Education, Training & Library	1.4	1.4
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	0.1	0.5
Food Preparation	1.3	1.2
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1.1	1.6
Healthcare Support	0.7	0.9
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	1.1	1.2
Legal	1.4	2.0
Life, Physical & Social Science	3.7	2.7
Management	1.2	1.4
Military	4.5	2.8
Office & Administrative Support	1.0	1.0
Personal Service	0.9	0.9
Production	0.5	0.6
Protective Service	1.6	1.3
Sales	0.9	1.0
Transportation	0.7	0.7

**Table 14 Occupational Specializations of Out-migrants and In-migrants**

The labor force participation of in-migrants and non-migrants is comparable. Because younger in-migrants are attending college in greater proportion, fewer are working. A higher percent are also in the armed forces, nearly all located at the Naval Air Station in Brunswick. With these exceptions, the differences are relatively minor.

Employment:	In Maine in 1995 Number	Moved in since 1995 Number	In Maine in 1995 Percent	Moved in since 1995 Percent
Working	139371	28261	76.4	70.81
Employed/not at work	3211	741	1.76	1.86
Unemployed	8526	1728	4.67	4.33
Armed forces	397	1926	0.22	4.83
not in Labor Force	30907	7253	16.94	18.17
	182412	39909	99.99	100

**Table 15 Employment Status of Young Adults age 20-34 in 2000**

*Is Northern Maine the principal source of youth leaving the state?*

**There are nearly twice as many out-migrants from southern Maine than northern Maine, but there are only small differences in the age and education levels between the two regions.**

In order to assure confidentiality of data, the Census reports data in the Public Use (1%) Microdata Sample, which compares the state-to-state migration, only in population aggregations of a minimum of 400,000 people. Maine is divided into two regions for purposes of PUMS data, a northern and southern region. These regions are grouped by counties:

<b>Southern:</b>	York Cumberland Sagadahoc Lincoln Androscoggin Kennebec	<b>Northern</b>	Oxford Franklin Somerset Piscataquis Penobscot Waldo Knox Hancock Washington Aroostook
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Among youth out-migrants, about two thirds (66%) came from the southern Maine region and the balance from the northern region. Table 16 compares the age structure of the out-migrants from the northern and southern regions. There is little difference between the two regions, except that a higher proportion of southern region out-migrants are ages 20-24. This is likely associated with a larger proportion of this group going out of state to college.

	Northern	Southern
20-24	28.5%	28.5%
25-29	36.2%	32.1%
30-34	22.3%	20.3%
TOTAL	34.6%	65.4%

**Table 16 Maine Region of Residence in 1995 by Age of Youth Population**

Table 17 provides a picture of differences in educational attainment for young out-migrants by region of origin. This table uses both definitions of age groups, that is age in 1995 and age at 2000. Consistent with the age data noted above, migrants from the southern region who were 20-34 in 1995 had a significantly higher proportion of associates and bachelor degrees. However, the proportions were closer for the 20-34 year

olds in 2000. Graduate degree holders were about the same for both regions whichever way the age groups are measured, although the numbers of respondents are relatively small and may not reflect the actual population of out-migrants with graduate degrees.

<b>Age 20-34 in 2000</b>	Northern	Southern
No School	0.0%	0.0%
Less than High School	6.9%	5.5%
High School	28.1%	19.8%
Some College	29.4%	37.0%
Associates	6.3%	5.8%
Bachelors	23.1%	25.6%
Graduate	6.3%	6.2%

<b>Age 20-34 in 1995</b>	Northern	Southern
Less than High School	5.4%	7.8%
High School	24.6%	16.9%
Some College	23.1%	13.7%
Associates	7.7%	11.4%
Bachelors	29.2%	40.2%
Graduate	10.0%	10.0%

**Table 17 Education by Region of Origin in Maine of Out-migrants for Youth Population**

***Are the young people who move to Maine likely to have come from Maine originally?***  
**Most of the young people who moved to Maine were not born in Maine**

While a number of surveys show that a substantial portion of the population that moves to Maine has connections to the state, either friends or family, having gone to school or summer camp here, vacationed here, or had some other connection, four out of five persons moving to Maine between 1995 and 2000 were not born in Maine. A smaller proportion of young adults (one in five) moving to Maine were born in Maine. However, those moving to Maine from a foreign country, 43% were born in Maine.

Of those moving to Maine that were not born here, a third were born in the state in which they last lived before moving to Maine. One could suggest that these individuals and the returning natives are more focused in their decisions to move.

The remaining 46% were already living in a state that was different from their state of birth when they moved to Maine. Though census data does not shed light on one's motives for moving, it suggest that about half of young adults are highly mobile, and over time make moves that lead them to live in a number of states or regions. For many of them, Maine may not be their final destination and their stay may be short.

	Percent of In-migrants
Born In Maine	19.8
Born in State where last lived	33.6
Born in a different State	46.4

**Table 18 Location of Birth for In-migrants to Maine**

***Where do in-migrants to Maine tend to settle?***

**Southern coastal Maine counties attract the majority of young in-migrants.**

The four southwestern counties – York, Cumberland, Sagadahoc and Lincoln – contain 41% of Maine’s population. Over half (53%) of the young adults that came to Maine between 1995 and 2000 settled in this region. However, the Naval Air Station at Brunswick accounts for nearly 1700 new migrants to Maine annually (and an equal number of out-migrants). Excluding those who associated with NAS-B, in-migrants to Maine would be more evenly distributed. The next largest share (10.4%) located in the Penobscot County area, likely due to the presence of the University of Maine.

Kennebec County receives the largest number of young in-migrants who were born in Maine. The suburban communities surrounding the Portland Metropolitan Urban Core (i.e., surrounding the core cities of Portland-South Portland-Westbrook) receive the second highest percentage of returning natives. With the exception of the Portland suburbs, fewer of those moving to southern Maine are natives than of the ones moving farther into Maine.

Region <sup>6</sup>	Percent	Born in Maine
York Co & NW Cumberland	16.0	19.9
Portland Metropolitan –Center	14.5	21.8
Portland Metropolitan-suburbs	11.2	26.3
Lincoln & Sagadahoc Co, Brunswick, Harpswell	11.6	11.7
Hancock, Knox & Waldo (exc. Winterport) Cos.	9.3	22.7
Kennebec County	6.7	27.4
Androscoggin County	8.4	22.3
Franklin, Oxford & Somerset Counties	5.7	23.9
Piscataquis & Penobscot Cos & Winterport	10.4	23.2
Washington & Aroostook Counties	6.2	22.6
Total	100.0	21.6

**Table 19 Maine Region of Residence for In-migrants**

<sup>6</sup> Census PUMS file regions do not usually follow county lines because a minimum population of 100,000 is required for each region. Most counties in Maine lack sufficient population and must be grouped. Metropolitan areas with populations of 100,000 or more are designated first and the balance of the county is counted separately.

*Are in migrants to Maine looking for a place to raise a family?*

**Young in-migrants are more likely to be single and to live in households without children.**

Less than half (43%) of in-migrants between the ages of 20-34 are married, compared to 46% of all Maine residents in the same age group. Of the one third of in-migrating young adults who are 20-24, three quarters (74%) are single. In contrast, only a third of young in-migrants 25-34 are single.

	In Maine in 1995	Moved in since 1995	In Maine in 1995	Moved in since 1995	In Maine in 1995	Moved in since 1995
	Age 20-24		Age 25-34		Age 25-34	
Married	44.6%	42.7%	18.5%	22.6%	56.5%	53.0%
Never Married	46.4%	48.0%	78.3%	73.9%	31.6%	34.9%
Divorced/Widowed/ Separated	9.0%	9.3%	3.2%	3.5%	11.9%	12.1%

**Table 20 Marital Status of Young Adult Maine Residents and In-migrants**

Fewer in-migrant young adults live in households with children. Nearly two thirds of young adult in-migrants live in households without children or other individuals under the age of 18. Half of the young adults in Maine since 1995 lived in households with children present. In addition, fewer in-migrant Young Adults live in family arrangements, and of those that do, the household size is smaller. Forty four percent of in-migrants are individuals without families compared to 26% of young adults living in Maine since 1995. Among young in-migrants, forty percent of individuals in family settings live in 2-person households compared to only 27% of the young adults in Maine since 1995.

		Young Adults 20-34		All Ages 5+	
		In Maine	Moved In	In Maine	Moved In
Persons Under 18 in Household:	None	48.8	64.4	52.8	54.1
	One or more	51.2	35.6	47.2	45.9
Children in the Household	None	50.3	65.4	53.7	54.8
	One or more	49.7	34.6	46.3	45.2
Household Size - Persons in Households by Size:	Householder/NF Family:	26.5	44.3	20.1	30.5
	2 person	19.9	22.0	29.4	24.2
	3 person	22.9	14.9	18.2	15.2
	4 person	20.7	11.9	20.1	16.3
	5 + person	10.1	6.9	12.3	13.9
		100.1	100.0	100.1	100.1

**Table 21 Household Characteristics of In-migrants**

***Are in-migrants more likely to rent than own a home?***

**In-migrant young adults are almost twice as likely to be renters as those already living in Maine.**

Those under 25 are less likely to be homeowners than those over 25 regardless of migration. However, only a fifth of in-migrants under 25 are homeowners, compared to half of those that have been here more than 5 years.

Percent of:	All Persons:		Under 25:		Over 25:	
Tenure	Moved in Since 95	Here In 95	Moved in Since 95	Here In 95	Moved in Since 95	Here In 95
Owners	34.3	61.1	21.8	50.2	38.7	65.7
Renters	65.7	38.9	78.2	49.8	61.3	34.3
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Table 22 Housing Arrangements of Individuals age 220-34 by Migration Status**

The census does not ask what year a person moved to Maine. It does, however, ask what year a person moved into their current residence. Though they may have arrived in Maine sooner, sixty percent of in-migrants moved into their present home in 1999 or before April 1, 2000.

## **The Youth Who Moved Within Maine**

***How much inter-regional movement of young adults is occurring within Maine?***

**For every young adult that moved to Maine, almost another three moved within Maine, and most moved locally**

In addition to the nearly 40,000 young adults that moved to Maine between 1995 and 2000, another 114,400 moved within the State. The majority of young people who move within Maine, like the majority of all those who move, move within the region in which they live. Of the young adults that moved within the state between 1995 and 2000, nearly 70% moved to another house locally within the same PUMA region.

	Number	Percent
Lived in same house in 1995 and 2000	68,007	37.3
Moved to another house in same PUMA region	77,955	42.7
Moved to another PUMA region in Maine	36,450	20.0
	182,412	100.0

**Table 23 Residence in 1995 for Young Population in Maine**

	Number	Percent
Region:		
York Co & NW Cumberland	9,693	74.6
Portland Metropolitan –Center	8,385	58.4
Portland Metropolitan-suburbs	4,036	40.7
Lincoln & Sagadahoc Co, Brunswick, Harpswell	4,734	63.9
Hancock, Knox & Waldo (exc. Winterport) Cos.	7,186	71.7
Kennebec County	7,874	69.5
Androscoggin County	8,566	75.3
Franklin, Oxford & Somerset Counties	8,069	70.5
Piscataquis & Penobscot Cos & Winterport	12,607	69.1
Washington & Aroostook Counties	6,805	86.0
Average	77,955	68.1

**Table 24 Young Adults who Moved Within the Same Region, 1995-2000**

***Where are Youth Migrating When They Move Within Maine?***

**Though young adults move at a much higher rate, few move beyond the local area. There is a tendency to move from rural to urban areas nearby.**

Most who move beyond the bounds of their community or local area move to an adjacent county or PUMA region. Southern Maine counties showed the highest level of in-migration, but nearly half of the movement of young adults in that region was between the PUMA regions that encompass York, Cumberland, Sagadahoc and Lincoln Counties, not people moving there from other regions of the State. The Penobscot County area also gained substantially, and drew more widely across the state than did Southern Maine.

Region:	Moved to: (Destination PUMA)		Moved from:		Net gain/loss
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
York Co & NW Cumberland	3300	9.0	2767	7.5	533
Portland Metropolitan –Center	5965	16.2	5545	15.1	420
Portland Metropolitan-suburbs	5876	16.0	5185	14.1	691
Lincoln & Sagadahoc Co, Brunswick, Harpswell	2466	6.7	2858	7.8	-392
Hancock, Knox & Waldo (exc. Winterport) Cos.	2834	7.7	2504	6.8	330
Kennebec County	3463	9.4	3650	9.9	-187
Androscoggin County	2815	7.6	2601	7.1	214
Franklin, Oxford & Somerset Counties	3377	9.2	4089	11.1	-712
Piscataquis & Penobscot Cos & Winterport	5628	15.3	4359	11.8	1269
Washington & Aroostook Counties	1104	3.0	3270	8.9	-2166
	36828	100.0	36828	100.0	0

**Table 25 Origin and Destination Regions of Youth Migration in Maine**



Though the belief that people from remote rural regions are moving to southern and coastal regions is widespread, the data on population migration between 1995 and 2000 does not support it. Broad regional shifts in population do not appear to be occurring. When migration of young adults between southern Maine and the rest of the state is compared, 90% of the population age 20-34 living in Cumberland, York, Lincoln and Sagadahoc counties stayed within the 4-county region when they moved. Likewise, over 90% of the population of young adults that live outside of these counties stayed outside of the 4-county southern Maine region when they moved.

The data does suggest that there is some migration to larger population centers nearby. For instance, young adults that left Hancock and Waldo counties between 1995 and 2000 moved primarily to Penobscot or Kennebec Counties where larger job and trade centers exist. Likewise, few people leaving Washington or Hancock Counties ended up in southern Maine. Most that left moved to Penobscot County. On average, only 20-22% of the young adults that leave inland counties move to the York-Cumberland-Sagadahoc region and less than 10% move to the mid coast.

## **Conclusion**

The story of “young people leaving Maine” has been told for well more than a century. Like many stories told by so many people over so long a period, there is truth in it, but a detailed analysis of the trends over the latter part of the 1990s reveals a much more complex truth than the story admits. Youth do leave Maine and do leave the rural areas, but other youth also come. The largest net out-migration of youth is associated with the age group most likely going to college; other youth age groups showed a net in migration. Youth do leave for better jobs, and they tend to be jobs that are not as available here, but many of the same jobs are in Maine. Youth do return to Maine after leaving, but the majority of young people who move to Maine were not born here.

The actual patterns of youth migration, both within and beyond Maine’s borders, suggests that capturing, or recapturing, a larger share of the young population is well within Maine’s reach. The changes needed to keep a larger proportion of college bound students here, to attract a larger number of in-migrants, may seem large, but even small changes in migration patterns will dramatically alter Maine’s oldest story about its young people.